

Happenings

February 15 (Thur) Springhills - Millhopper Road Meeting

6 pm at Talbot Elementary. See page 3 for more details.

February 18 (Sun) Adopt A Road Cleanup

Meet at 3 pm to get organized for a 3:15 pm sharp deployment. Park on CR 234 just east of Micanopy near our sign. Please don't be late; it's hard to get you supplied and assigned after we have started. We need about 14 people for an optimal crew. Please RSVP to diann@piercepages.com or call Diann at 378-7063. If we do not acknowledge your RSVP, please follow up; you never know what today's SPAM filters will send to the bit bucket. We'll eat at a local eatery after we work up our appetite picking up the trash!

February 24 (Sat) Water Festival Rides

Several GCC ride groups should be organizing rides from Fanning Springs State Park in conjunction with the Water Festival. Watch your GCCMail for details. See page 6 for more details on Festival events.

March 3 (Sat) 400 Kilometer Brevet

See the GCC web site for full information on this event. 248 miles. Jim Wilson (352)373-0023.

March 10 (Sat) Annual Membership Event

A real "bike club" event this year. Wear your favorite cycling t-shirt, and enjoy a meal catered by Napolitano's restaurant for only \$5 (deadline to order a meal is Monday, March 5 by mail or Wednesday, March 7, by drop off).

Special Event: Concorse d' Elegance

Bring your "special" bike to compete for an award in the Second Annual Concorse d' Elegance. Members will vote for the winner in each of four categories: Road, Off Road, Recumbent, and Antique.

Meet at 5 pm at the United Church of Gainesville. Full details are on page 5.

March 11 (Sun) Daylight Savings Time Begins!!!

Don't forget to set your clocks forward and lose an hour of sleep! Standard ride time is still 9 am, but you'll need to get up an hour earlier by the sun to make it. Yes, this is a change this year; many of your electronic devices will miss this change as they are programmed to recognize the prior law.

March 31 (Sat) 600 Kilometer Brevet

See the GCC web site for full information on this event. 372 miles. Jim Wilson (352)373-0023.



From The Editor

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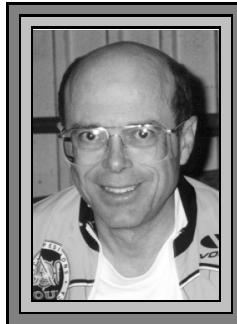
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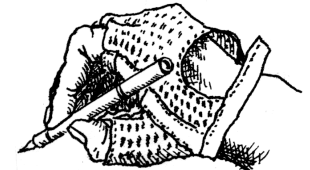
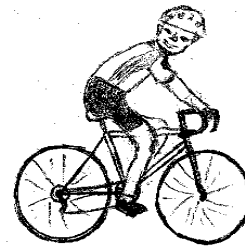
GCC Web Page

gainesvillecyclingclub.org
gainesvillecc.org
gccfla.org



A quick note this month as I'm working long hours in my H&R Block office, so some routine club business may take longer than usual to be seen to. Thanks to our

regular columnists for getting some good articles in this month. We could use some more stuff from the peanut gallery, though!



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President's Letter

Another cycling year is upon us and may this be the best and safest one yet. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our 2007 Board of Directors. For those of you not already familiar with us, we are here to serve you. I think the new Board represents an ideal blend of seasoned veterans and enough new faces to keep us old timers on our toes. There have been two changes to the offices. The Gainesville Cycling Festival (Horse Farm Hundred & Santa fe Century) has become a huge, nearly year-long undertaking and now has it's own board position and the Adopt-A-Road duties no longer have a Board status. Your Board members are as follows:

President ~ Bob Newman
Vice-president ~ Rob Wilt
Treasurer ~ Art Stockwell
Membership Secretary ~ Roger Pierce
Gainesville Cycling Festival Aid Director ~ Gary Greenberg
Recording Secretary ~ Velvet Yates
Ride Leader Coordinator ~ Scott Pfaff
Off-Road Director ~ Jim Pollard
Regional Brevet Administrator ~ Jim Wilson
Lantern Rouge ~ Chandler Otis
Member at Large ~ Dan Perrine

Please feel free to contact any of us

with any questions you may have, board member's email addresses appear on page 2 of this newsletter. Our Annual Meeting/Party/Swap Meet will be held on March 10th at the United Church of Gainesville, 1624 NW 5th Avenue. The church has long been an active proponent of safe cycling in the area and I'm looking forward to seeing a great many of you there. The event will be catered by Napolatano's restaurant and will include vegetarian choices in addition to their well known lasagna and other items. This event is shaping up to be one of our best yet. We will be featuring awards for the best in category bikes, a great party atmosphere, and swap/for sale tables for your wares. The club will be picking up a substantial portion of the cost for the party so keep an eye on your email and elsewhere in this newsletter for further specifics.



Bob Newman 

President, Gainesville Cycling Club

Springhills - Millhopper Road Meeting Feb 15

Opposition to the expanded plan for SpringHills is growing, and your help is needed. To learn about the issues, you are invited to attend a public meeting scheduled for Thur Feb 15, 6:00 P.M. at Talbot Elementary School (5701 NW 43 St). To learn more, see <http://www.savemillhopperroad.org/>

When SpringHills (located near I-75 and 39th Ave) was first proposed, it seemed reasonable. But the current plan is vastly different, with more retail than Butler Plaza (focusing on big box stores and warehouses), and a residential component that rivals Haile Plantation in population (but much higher density).

The city commission is "strongly opposed" to the current SpringHills proposal, because they believe it will impact the Gainesville character as we know it, increase

traffic (including a possible cut-through road between 39th and Millhopper), increase taxes (at least 60 million dollars needed for roads), and decrease retail opportunities for downtown and east Gainesville.

However, it is the county commission that makes the decision. Because the proposal violates the Comprehensive Plan (which was designed for smart growth and to contain, not promote, sprawl), the commissioners must approve an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan for the current SpringHills proposal to move forward. The commissioners are listening; this is not a "done deal." The county commissioners have been invited to the meeting on Thu Feb 15. We hope to see you there, too.

Thanks. Lee (and Tony) Ross

Mick Osman

It's amazing how many people belong to GCC but don't live in the area—they just pass through. Meet one of them, Mick Osman, from Stockbridge, Michigan, 35 miles northwest of Ann Arbor. As Mick says "You know, home of the team that should be playing Ohio State for the National Championship." (He did note that he rooted for the Gators.)

Mick is "58 years young" and rides about 200- 250 miles a week (although winter weather drops that to 100 miles or so). He says, "If the temps are in the 20's, the wind is not to bad and the roads are clear of ice and snow I will ride. I fit quite well in with your LoBee group with an occasional dabble with the HiBees. 99.9% of my riding is on the road. (I ride a Lemond Arrive in the good weather and a Specialized Roubaix Comp in the bad.) I have tried mountain biking and recently did my first night ride. It was awesome!"

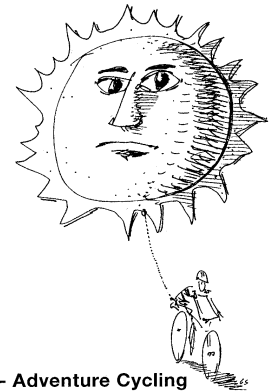
Mick either works part-time at Aberdeen Bike and Fitness in Chelsea, Michigan or he is readying his dogs for the show ring or for the field. For over 25 years he's bred and shown Gordon Setters.

Mick talks about riding up

north—"Up here I belong to the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. The club consists of riders that I would categorize as HiBees and slower. (The racers belong to the Ann Arbor Velo Club or to the Ann Arbor Tri Club.) From April to the end of October the AABTS has several rides, starting at different locations, daily varying in distance from 35-55 miles. The weekends are reserved for longer rides from 35 up to 100 miles. Once or twice a year the club does a double century ride. Of course on the second Saturday in July we hold the One Helluva Ride. OHR, which goes through, Hell, Michigan is one of largest one-day rides in the US. Last year we had over 2000 riders. Currently I am in 13th place mileage-wise having ridden 4567 miles to date. My friend John Pierce leads the way with over 13,000 miles. What's amazing is John (70 years old) rode every single mile here in Michigan."

Mick learned about GCC while visiting his mother in Gainesville. On an extended visit last year he brought his bikes and joined up. He rode with the LoBees on the weekend and "met some wonderful people and had

some great rides." He'll be hooking up with GCC again in March. Mick—come enjoy the sun, the warmth and the clear roads!



- Adventure Cycling



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Annual Gainesville Cycling Club Membership Event

Swap Meet - Meeting - Party

Saturday, March 10, 5 pm

United Church of Gainesville, 1624 NW 5th Avenue

All club members are invited to attend our annual event to be held this year at the United Church of Gainesville.

If you would like to eat dinner, you must preorder a meal. The cost per plate is \$5 (\$15 non-member guests). The food will be catered by Napolitano's restaurant. Use the form below to choose between Lasagna, Chicken Marcella, Baked Ziti (meatless), or Fettuccine Alfredo (meatless). Included with the meal is tea, salad, bread, and dessert (specify Brownie or Lemon Square).

We will have a cash bar with beer and wine, and the club will provide our standard soda pop selection.

Special Event: Concourse d' Elegance

Bring your "special" bike to compete for an award in the Second Annual Concourse d' Elegance. Members will vote for the winner in each of four categories: Road, Off Road, Recumbent, and Antique.

You will need to declare your category upon arrival, and we'll give you a numbered sign for votes to be recorded against. Each member will receive a ballot when they check in.

Bikes in the Antique category must have been manufactured before 1980. You should know the actual year of manufacture for the sign.

Swap Meet

There are no special rules for the Swap Meet. You can do true "swaps" or yard sale transactions.

Door Prizes

We will have door prizes! If you have a business that would like to donate a prize, please contact Bob Newman at Bobnewman@cox.net. For prizes valued at \$20 or more, we will give you a free standard display ad in the next *Gainesville Cyclist*.

Dress Code for the Evening

Wear your most unusual or interesting cycling related t-shirt.

Nonmembers:

Send in a membership application and payment along with your reservation, and pay the member rate for the meal.

Mail not later than Monday, March 5 – Drop off not later than Wednesday, March 7

Gainesville Cycling Club Annual Meeting Meal Reservation

\$5 per member (\$15 per non-member)

Member Name(s): _____

Non-member name(s): _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

____ Lasagna
____ Chicken Marcella
____ Baked Ziti (meatless)
____ Fettuccine Alfredo

____ Brownie
____ Lemon Square

Make checks payable to:
Gainesville Cycling Club
Mail forms to:
Gainesville Cycling Club
Annual Meeting
5015 NW 19th Place
Gainesville FL 32605

Recycled Bicycles

805 W. University Avenue

Recently, I went to the heart of downtown Gainesville to visit Recycled Bicycles. Located on the corner of University and 8th St., Recycled Bicycles is a small, casual shop stacked floor to ceiling with bikes (many funky older models), bike parts (many hard-to-find), and accessories. I was enthusiastically greeted by Hank, the shop dog. Owner Frederick Gerretson (who goes by the handle "Niles") was kind enough to take some time to answer a few questions. (During most of the interview, Hank was lying at my feet, chewing on an old bike pedal.)

Niles has been the owner of Recycled Bicycles for three and a half years. The shop has been open since 1979 (Niles had worked in this shop, among others, when he was in high school). Niles says that his shop is extremely popular for repairs – for example, they offer to change a flat tire for customers while they wait, for

only \$8. The shop even gets a lot of business by referral from other bike shops in the area. Recycled Bicycles is also endorsed by Student Bicycle Repair at UF. While service constitutes the majority of the shop's business, there are also some new bikes for sale, such as the Redline single-speed commuter bike. Recycled also sells Surly bikes, and has 20-inch bikes (street or dirt) for kids as well. There are many used bikes for sale, but not nearly enough to keep up with the demand; Niles encourages GCC members to bring by their old road bikes to sell on consignment. Many students come into the shop looking for bikes; the shop's customers tend to be budget-minded riders who prefer to buy or fix up an old bike rather than spending a lot of money on a new one. Recycled also offers unique rental services, renting bikes to football fans on home game days, and to art fans during the downtown Arts Festival.

The "Recycled" in the shop's title is not there by accident; Niles is quite serious about recycling. The shop

recycles rubber, aluminum, and steel, much of it from abandoned bicycles; for example, they paid to recycle 8000 pounds of steel last year. Recycling is an activity that Niles would like to see the GCC participate in more. The shop also contributes to the Alachua County Forever conservation trust. They actively support GCC events, contributing to the Tour de Felasco and the Horse Farm Hundred (which Niles also rode; when he has time, he rides with the A-Riders). In addition, Niles supports the racing aspirations of his members and staff, paying for them to enter races.

Niles encourages GCC members to come in and take advantage of their 10% discount, and to consider putting their old road bikes on consignment. That's a great way to 'recycle' an old bike. In closing, Niles wanted to thank GCC Bike Shop Liaison Diann Dmitri for keeping Recycled Bicycles in the club, and extend a general 'thank you' to the community for supporting the shop. And finally, he wanted to congratulate Andrea Tossellini on his Boston-Montreal victory!

Water

A Celebration of Life: Naturally

Water is the focus of an event spearheaded by the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs (FFGC) District V.

On Saturday, February 24th a Springs Celebration at Fanning Springs State will feature educational displays by a host of government agencies, environmental groups, non-profit service organizations and business. The Fanning Springs State Park is located on US Hwy 19/98 north of Chiefland. Residents and visitors to the area will be encouraged to enjoy the natural beauty of Fanning springs and the Suwannee River through a variety of outdoor activities in and around the park including the Nature Coast Trail.

We expect that several riding groups of the Gainesville Cycling Club will do rides from Fanning Springs on the morning of this event.

Musicians will entertain throughout the day while educational videos are shown in a big tent. Vendors will offer food and all types of gardening items for sale. Rain barrels decorated by Junior Gardeners from the District will be auctioned to support environmental education at local public schools. Park gates open at 9:00 AM and admission is free that day, so come enjoy Florida at its best.

Also on Saturday the Town of Trenton just down the on State Road 26 has joined in the celebration and will have typical rural town activities going on including bluegrass music, farmers market, leisurely strolls along the main streets of town for shopping and dining. The whole day is geared to celebrating the rural environment and the importance of protecting open space and water resources.

FFGC District V Director, Judy Greenberg, says this will be a celebration of all the good water management practices in Florida and an opportunity to explore areas for future improvement. The tri-county area of Gilchrist, Dixie and Levy is a future growth area in the state. Water management practices vary throughout the state because the land and hydrology vary. It's important for citizens to understand these differences so that we can work together to support good solutions for all Florida residents. The Garden Club is pleased to have had an excellent planning team to help with the event including The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Water Management Districts, UF/IFAS, Town of Fanning Springs, Town of Trenton and countless individual community members and businesses.

The Alachua County commission is considering an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan that will destroy scenic Millhopper Road, which is currently enjoyed by many cyclists. The threat is posed by a Philadelphia corporation that wants the county to build a cut-through road from NW 39th Avenue to Millhopper Road to serve its vastly expanded SpringHills development. Unlike the original development proposal, the current proposal doubles the amount of stores and retail sites to 1.5 million square feet (including numerous big box stores), and adds more warehouses, hotels, apartments, and tightly packed homes.

The Gainesville Sun reports that the SpringHills current proposal for commercial space is much larger than the Oaks Mall or Butler Plaza. The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council shows that Millhopper Road will be significantly impacted. The county staff describes the potential traffic impact as "huge." Opposition to the expanded SpringHills development, and to the cut-through road, is growing. Approximately 200 people attended a meeting organized by the Coalition for Responsible Growth on January 16, which focused on this topic. County planners provided an overview of the project, with a question and answer session. Attendees included two county commissioners, residents from a variety of neighborhoods throughout the county, and members of groups such as Women for Wise Growth, Sustainable Alachua County, and the Sierra Club. This initiative is not simply a not-in-my-backyard (NIMBY) issue, but represents a much broader concern, because of the large impact on Gainesville.

The future of Millhopper Road rests squarely with Alachua County commissioners. Please consider expressing your support for the Comprehensive Plan, and your opposition to a Comprehensive Plan amendment that would permit a massive SpringHills development and a cut-through road. Your help is needed:

- Contact your county commissioners and arrange a meeting with individual commissioners.
- Send an e-mail message to the commissioners to express your opinion.
- Write a letter to the editor of the Gainesville Sun.
- Contact other groups, and ask for their support.
- Attend upcoming meetings to show your support.

For updates, see the Web site:
<http://www.savemillhopperroad.org>.

Learning safe cycling between the pancakes and sunsets

by Herb Hiller

Three years ago the Mayor of Lake Helen led his city to cut its population at build-out by half. Nobody sued for loss of property rights and Mayor Mark Shuttleworth was elected unopposed to his third term.

With 3,000 people today (6,000 at build-out), Lake Helen – pretty, historic and quiet – drew the attention of the Florida Bicycle Association as the place to launch Florida’s first adult bicycle safety and touring program.

“We like that compatibility between smart growth and bicycling,” says FBA President Mighk Wilson.

“Places that are thoughtful about their environment naturally attract people likely to think about alternative transportation.”

That’s the cue for FBA’s new Florida Discovery Bicycling Center. It’s for people who want to learn to ride safely but can’t find anyone elsewhere to teach them.

Led by long-time League of American Bicyclist and National Tour Director Association-certified instructor Lyndy Moore, FDBC has quickly become the Florida adult safety training standard.

FDBC’s program is six days and five nights, starting with a meet-and-greet Sunday followed by a day of in-class and outdoors safety training and then by four days of riding country roads with little traffic then on to busier town streets. Daily rides range from 10 to 45 miles with extra mapped miles for those who want.

“Routes and mileages get set when the cyclists arrive and we see the bikes people bring and find out their skills,” says Lyndy.

“Flexibility and fine tuning are part of the uniqueness of these tours, making them work for each participant.”

Tours finish with Friday lunch at the Cassadaga Hotel, where most everyone stays.

A guide, sweep and sag wagon accompany all rides.

Good as the rides and training are, “We didn’t really make this trip for the food,” reported Miami Herald writer



John Hopkins after the first tour, “but the exercise doubled the pleasure found on our plates. We enjoyed our carbs without guilt, knowing we could burn them off before another sunset across the St. Johns River.”

Those meals rate highest evenings when prepared at two area bed-and-breakfasts, outdoors at a horse farm, and in a Craftsman-era mansion directly overlooking namesake Lake Helen. Also at the Old Spanish Sugar Mill

f o r
cook-‘em-yourself
pancakes at DeLeon
Springs State Park
and a fresh-picked
lunch and hay ride at
Vo-LaSalle Farm.

More to like?

“People like hanging out on the hotel porch,” says Lyndy.

“People in the morning sit and have coffee together, come back end of day for an adult

beverage.”

Can the tours be improved?

“Sure,” says Lyndy. “We’ve added oatmeal to the full English breakfast and we now tell folks to be sure to bring their own flavored creamer if they want, bug spray for kayaking and a cooler to keep things in their room.”

For a full schedule of coming tours, l o g o n t o
www.Floridabicycle.org/discovery. The tours also make great gifts.



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vacant

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The Gainesville Cyclist is published bi-monthly with cover dates of even-numbered months. All submissions are welcome.

Classified ads will be run free-of-charge for club members; email or mail to the editor.

Ads are \$20 for a standard size ad, \$40 for a quarter page ad, and \$80 for a half page ad. A one year (six issue) subscription for standard size ads is \$100.

AD GRAPHICS

Craig Lee 475-1825

craig@craigdidit.com

APRIL DEADLINES

Ad copy needing setup work

March 9

Articles and classifieds

March 16

Ads in GIF or TIFF format

March 20

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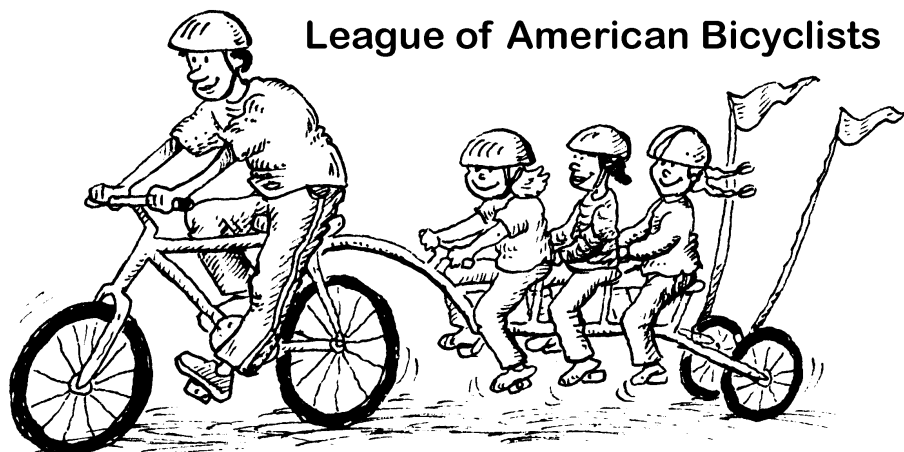
CLASSIFIED

GCC club bike shorts, VO MAX model, red stripe with the yellow GCC text on the side. Size large. These are very good condition, clean, worn maybe ten times. Will sell for \$30. Rob Wilt 380-0561 or email me at robertwilt@juno.com

Recumbent Bike For Sale. EZ-Speedster-AX recumbent bike. Aluminum frame. Disc F/R brakes. Sram X9 shifters. 9 speed freewheel. Look pedals. Silver. Less than 6-mo old. \$750. Arnold Betancourt 904-591-8211 day, 904-230-0711 eves. arnold59@bellsouth.net

Specs:

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BUSINESS SPONSORS

These businesses provide discounts to club members who present their yellow membership card or the back page of their newsletter (with expiration date):

Bike Route	10%	374-4550	3429 West University Avenue (Westgate Regency)
Bikes & More	10%	373-6574	2113 NW 6 th Avenue
Chain Reaction	20%	373-4052	1630 West University Avenue
Gator Cycle	10%	373-3962	3321 SW Archer Road
Mr Goodbike	10%	336-5100	425 NW 13 th Street
Pedalers Pub & Grille	10%	http://www.pedalerspubandgrille.com/gcc	(Exotic cycling tours)
Recycled Bicycles	10%	372-4890	805 West University Avenue
Spin Cycle	22%	373-3355	425 West University Avenue
Streit's Schwinn Cyclery	10%	377-2453	4421 NW 6 th Street
Susan Bridges Massage	10%	262-8240	901 NW 8 th Ave, Suite A1

Some restrictions apply, ask for details at the store.



Gainesville Cycling Club

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FEBRUARY 2007 ISSUE Mailing label with expiration date identifies current member.

2007 Gainesville Cycling Festival - 20-21 Oct - Santa Fe Century - Horse Farm Hundred

Welcome New Members!

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Bethany Parker
Brenda Knighton-Slatton
Carolyn Shaffer
Charles Lockwood
Christian Lynn
Danny Stevens, Jr.
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